

FCC 05-235

I want to comment on the removal of the requirement for Morse code as a requirement for all amateur radio licenses. I understand the change in the international radio requirements and agree that some relaxation of the Morse code (CW) requirement is probably justifiable. I personally would like to see the Morse code requirement kept for all licenses, but I do understand the FCC position and the need to accept some changes. I would however, like the FCC to consider keeping the Morse code requirement for Extra Class licensees. When I look at the increase in operating frequencies for going from advanced (which is what I had previously) to Extra Class, the main increase in frequency allocation for use is the lower 25 kHz of most of the HF bands (The CW portion of the bands). It would seem to me that with that increase in frequency allocation that keeping the Morse code requirement for Extra Class amateur radio licensees would be a reasonable and logical choice for the FCC.

One of the arguments the FCC provided to removing all Morse code requirements was that most of the emergency communications is now by voice or data modes and not CW. I believe that in a severe emergency where power is out over a very large area for a very long time (Some Hurricane Katrina and Rita locations have waited over 4-6 weeks to get power restored) and where amateur radio communications are being provided from batteries or solar power that Morse code would be able to provide communications where voice or data (computer required, which requires significant power) would not be possible.

Because of the Extra Class CW frequency allocation and emergency communications potential, I strongly request that the basic 5 WPM Morse code requirement be kept for the Amateur Extra Class license.

Yours truly,

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Amateur Extra Class License